GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2866
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2016
Pollution in Sutlej River
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether effluents and industrial wastes are being discharged into the Sutlej river and its tributaries and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the said effluents are being discharged into canals of Rajasthan at Harike Barrage and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government intends to take legal action against industrial and city authorities of Punjab which are responsible for polluting canal water being supplied to Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) The water quality of river Sutlej (Ludhiana upstream to Harike Barrage) and river Beas in Punjab is regularly monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in collaboration with the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB). The water quality of river Sutlej and its tributaries is impacted due to discharge of untreated/partially treated sewage and industrial effluent from various cities and towns of Punjab, including Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Phagwara.

(c) & (d) CPCB has advised Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) in November, 2012 and January, 2014 for issuance of directions under Section 33(A) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to authorities concerned for optimization, operation and maintenance of sewage treatment plants (STPs) in Ludhiana and Jalandhar and the Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) installed at Leather Complex, Jalandhar. PPCB has also been directed to ensure that no industrial unit discharges its untreated/partially treated effluent either into Sutlej and Beas rivers or into drains.

CPCB has issued directions under Section 18(1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to PPCB in November, 2014 for appropriate action to improve the water quality of rivers Sutlej and Beas. Directions have also been issued by CPCB in April, 2015 under Section 18(1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to all State Pollution Control Boards, including PPCB, regarding treatment and utilization of sewage generated in their respective States. In October, 2015, directions have been issued under Section (5) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 by CPCB to Municipal Corporations of 69 metro towns, including Ludhiana, for proper collection, treatment and disposal of sewage generated in their jurisdiction.
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